GB Assembly completes five-year tenure

• Passes 12 bills on final day, including one related to management of adventure tourism • Retired judge Yar Muhammad appointed caretaker chief minister

By Jamil Nagri

GILGIT: The Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly completed its five-year tenure on Monday at midnight. During the final session, held here on Monday in the GB Assembly Hall and chaired by Speaker Nazir Ahmed Advocate, members passed a dozen bills, including one related to the management of adventure tourism, by majority vote. They also unanimously approved two resolutions.

The assembly passed 12 bills, including the GB Tourism Adventure Tourism Management Bill 2025 and the GB Tobacco Control Bill.

The house also unanimously approved a resolution demanding the regularisation of Rescue 1122 and local council contractual employees.

Speaking on the occasion, GB Assembly Speaker Nazir Ahmed Advocate said the democratic process in the region began later than in other parts of the country.

"We are in an evolutionary phase. GB Assembly members are elected by the public, and over the past five years, lawmakers have attempted to solve problems faced by the public," he said.

He noted that it had been difficult to conduct assembly proceedings in a natural manner.

GB Minister Abdul Hameed told the house that education and health issues remained serious, and that the region could progress only by developing its tourism sector.

Speaking on the occasion, Advocate Amjad Hussain, assembly member and PPP GB chapter president, said the assembly had completed its five-year tenure today.

He added that the members tried to fulfil the responsibilities entrusted to them by the public through legislation and practical measures.

Five-year background

The GB Assembly elections were held on Nov 15, 2020 across 24 constituencies. The PTI formed the government, and Khalid Khurshid was elected chief minister.

However, in July 2023, the GB Chief Court disqualified CM Khurshid. Subsequently, a coalition government was formed by members of the PTI disgruntled group, the PPP, and the PML-Nawaz, which elected Haji Gulbar Khan as the new chief minister of the region.

According to Abbas Ali, deputy director information for the house, the assembly adopted 63 Acts during its five-year tenure, including one pertaining to land reforms as well as six federal ones.

The GB Assembly passed 114 resolutions on various issues, including a demand that the federal government declare Gilgit-Baltistan a provisional province of Pakistan.

Later, GB Assembly Speaker Nazir Ahmed Advocate hosted a farewell event for all outgoing assembly members.

Caretaker CM

According to a statement released by the Prime Minister's Office, PM Shehbaz, being the "Gilgit-Baltistan Council chairman, has appointed retired Justice Yar Muhammad as the caretaker GB chief minister, "in terms of Article 48-A(2) of the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan Order, 2018".

It added that caretaker GB chief minister "shall take oath before entering upon the office in the form set out in the First Schedule of the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan Order, 2018".

Under the GB Order 2018, elections must be held within 60 days. The GB chief minister, the opposition leader, and the Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan federal minister are required to agree on a single name for the caretaker chief minister.

"If we cannot agree on one name, the proposed names will be sent to the prime minister, who, as chairman of the GB Council, has the discretion to nominate any suitable person for the position," Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Amir Muqam told *Dawn* recently.

CHAIRMAN Joint Chief of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza meets Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.—APP

Outgoing CJCSC holds farewell meetings with president, prime minister

By Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza on Monday held separate farewell meetings with President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

During the meeting at the Presidency, President Zardari appreciated Gen Mirza's professional competence and his service to the country. The President thanked him for his contributions to the national defence and wished him well in the future.

During the meeting at the PM House, PM Shehbaz lauded the professionalism of the outgoing Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and his services for the country and the nation, a press statement issued by the PM House Media Wing said.

The office of CJCSC has been abolished under the recently passed 27th Constitutional Amendment and amendments in army laws.

JMC construction

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz has directed officials concerned to accelerate work on the construction of all proposed medical treatment centres of the Jinnah Medical Complex (JMC). He expressed the hope that the project would be completed soon through collective efforts.

"This project will not only be exemplary for Pakistan but for the entire region in the field of health," the prime minister said while chairing a meeting of the Board of Jinnah Medical Complex.

He also expressed gratitude to the Aga Khan Foundation for providing technical assistance at various stages of the construction of the Jinnah Medical Complex.

During the meeting, the JMC board thanked the prime minister for his continuous support and guidance throughout all phases of the project's construction.

According to the briefing, rapid progress was being made on providing facilities for not only medical services at the Jinnah Medical Complex but also for international standard medical training, education and research.

To bring the complex up to global standards, modern technology, including the use of artificial intelligence and robotics, will be employed for research.

Senior officers from the board and relevant institutions attended the meeting.

Tribunal nullifies JUI-F MNA's victory

Orders ECP to hold fresh polling at 22 disputed stations of NA-251

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: An election tribunal has accepted the petition filed by Pashtunkhwa National Awami Party Chairman Khushhal Khan Kakar for NA-251, declaring the notification of JUI-F's Syed Samiullah as the returned candidate null and void.

The tribunal, headed by Justice Muhammad Amir Nawaz Rana, directed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to cancel Mr Samiullah's notification and hold fresh polling at 22 disputed stations of the constituency.

In his petition, PkNAP chief Kakar alleged gross violations and bogus votes during the 2024 general elections in NA-251 (Zhob/Qila Saifullah/Sherani) and requested that the JUI-F candidate be de-seated and that he himself be notified as the successful candidate.

After hearing the case, the tribunal instead ordered re-polling at the 22 controversial stations.

In a statement, the PkNAP expressed disappointment over the ruling and said that despite presenting undeniable evidence, certified records from all polling stations and what it called solid proof of Mr Kakar's victory, the decision to order re-polling made no sense.

The party said it had expected the tribunal to uphold Mr Kakar's success, noting that the ECP had already acknowledged his clear lead on its website, during formal proceedings and through a specially formed inquiry commission.

The statement added that the tribunal had earlier declared Mr Kakar successful and ordered a recount at 22 polling stations only to satisfy the opposing side.

That recount again confirmed Mr Kakar's lead by more than 4,000 votes, and the result was officially submitted by the returning officer, it said, adding that polling agents and presiding officers also testified in his favour, while the ECP produced complete records supporting his claim.

Terming the order for re-polling disappointing and contrary to electoral justice, the party alleged that Mr Kakar's original margin of more than 20,000 votes had been unlawfully altered after the Feb 8 elections.

Bugti orders probe into 'irregularities' in youth programme

By Our Staff Correspondent

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti has ordered an impartial probe into reports of alleged irregularities in the Chief Minister's Youth Skills Development and Overseas Employment Programme.

Taking serious notice of the matter, the chief minister made it clear that mismanagement and lack of transparency would not be tolerated in the welfare initiatives launched by the Balochistan government for the betterment of the youth of the province.

According to a directive issued by the Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, serious questions had emerged regarding the programme's implementation, transparency, beneficiary selection, and overall effectiveness. Consequently, the provincial government referred the matter to the Chief Minister's Inspection Team (CMIT).

Officials said that Mr Bugti strictly instructed the CMIT team to thoroughly examine all aspects of the programme and submit a detailed report to him within two weeks.

The report must identify facts and include concrete recommendations for strengthening accountability within departments concerned to ensure future reforms.

Reaffirming the provincial government's commitment to the youth development, skill enhancement and the creation of overseas employment opportunities, Mr Bugti emphasised that ensuring transparent and fair use of public resources is the top priority of the provincial government.

He said the government wanted to make this important programme more effective, fair and practically beneficial for the youth so that they can genuinely access better opportunities for progress.

Outfit behind Police Lines attack rears its head

Continued from Page 1

that the JuA founder belonged to the Safi tribe of Mohmand district and had previously been involved in militancy in Afghanistan and Kashmir through the Harkatul Mujahideen platform. In 2007, he became a founding member of the TTP, but formed his own group in 2014.

The researcher said Khorasani was killed in August 2022, along with three associates, in a mysterious explosion in Afghanistan's Paktika province. "JuA attributes responsibility for his killing to the current TTP leadership. In this regard, a statement was (also) issued in 2024 by Ghazi Media, a pro-JuA outlet," he said.

Mr Sayed said the majority of JuA commanders came from the Mohmand district, adding that since many individuals from Mohmand are settled in Peshawar and other cities, this factor may account for the greater activity of their network in Peshawar.

He said that in March 2024, the TTP announced reconciliation with the JuA and assigned important positions to its members. However, in January 2025, a dispute between the two surfaced in the media. Although no formal separation occurred, when the TTP announced its appointments for 2025 in February, no significant positions were allocated to the JuA.

He said that although the JuA did not formally claim responsibility for the Peshawar attack, observers argued that the group was involved, as indicated by statements on its social media accounts.

According to the researcher, in this respect, it constitutes the eighth major attack by the JuA since November 2022, involving twelve suicide attackers. It may be noted that the JuA did not officially claim responsibility for the Islamabad courts attack or the latest Peshawar attack.

On the other hand, the Peshawar FC has remained a target of several devastating attacks over the course of two decades.

On August 4, 2010, the then commandant of the paramilitary force, Safwat Ghayur, was martyred in a suicide attack at a busy intersection at a stone's throw from the FC HQ.

In March 2013, then-FC commandant Abdul Majeed Marwat, on his way to the HQ, narrowly escaped a suicide attack near a military checkpost on Fakhr Alam Road in Peshawar Cantonment.

The most devastating attack targeting this paramilitary force took place in May 2011 when two suicide bombers targeted the fresh FC recruits outside Shabqadr FC training centre, the largest training facility of the force in the province. The attack had left more than 90 recruits dead.

Mr Sayed said that JuA was presently headed by Umar Mukarram Khorasani. However, he said that Mukarram rarely issued statements on key occasions and mostly stayed away from the media

He said that Mukarram was also featured in a video with Sarbakaf Mohmand in 2023, when they claimed multiple major suicide attacks.

In addition, Mukarram was part of the TTP leadership council, representing the JuA.

On Sarbakaf, he said that the militant was like the group's second-in-command, although this was not officially declared but was evident from his influence and media appearances.

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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

We invite Expression of Interest (EOI) from parties interested in providing the undermentioned services for the above-mentioned Project:

1) **ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNING, MEDICAL PLANNING AND MASTER PLANNING OF THE PROJECT comprising of 250-bedded hospital** including a Nursing School and Boarding/Lodging facility for essential medical personnel:
   a. Health Facility Briefing; b. Master Planning; c. Schematic Design; d. Detailed Construction Documentation; e. All relevant authority approvals (IESCO, SNGP, WASA, etc) f. Costing and BOQ g. Defects Liability Period Management h. Operational Commissioning I. Project Management j. Medical Equipment and Furniture Planning k. Clinical Services and Clinical Operations Services Planning.

2) **OBTAINING CDA PERMISSION / APPROVAL FOR iFEEL HOSPITAL (250-BED HOSPITAL) LOCATED IN ZONE-IV, ISLAMABAD:**
   a. Submissions, Planning Permissions, Technical Documentation for the project including site plan, layout plan, leading to submission of project case to the relevant authority;
   b. Hydrological / Flood Study, including third party vetting;
   c. Soil Investigation Study;
   d. Planning Concept Study;
   e. Traffic Impact Assessment, including third party vetting
   f. Environmental Protection Agency Clearance: (i) Study, (ii) Screening & Scoping, (iii) Expert Comments, (iv) Public Hearing, and (v) Approval;
   g. Presentation to Member Planning and the Committee at CDA to justify all technical aspects of the Project.

Interested parties may submit their Expressions of Interest at the under-mentioned address latest by **07 December 2025.**

For submission of EOIs or for further information:
Mr. Kamran Haider – Head of Administration
Ph: +92-51-2813171-73; Cell: +92 51 303-3336014; Email: kamran.haider@matrixventures.com
502, 5th Floor, Green Trust Tower, Jinnah Avenue, F6/1, Blue Area, Islamabad 44010, Pakistan.

iFeel reserves the right to ask for additional information, or reject/accept any EOI without giving any reason.

Two terror suspects gunned down

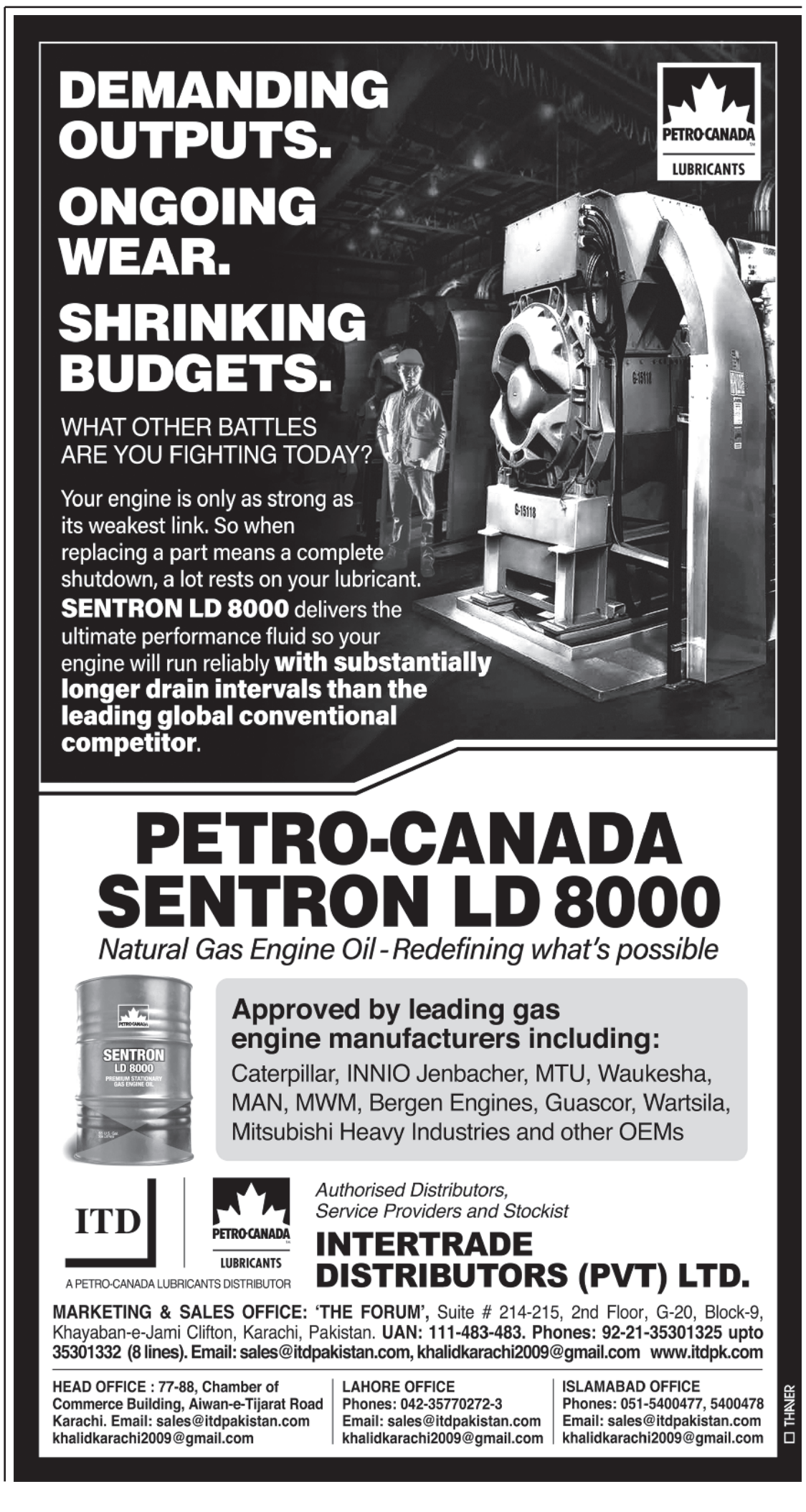
SWABI: Two terrorists were killed when a district police party clashed with them within the limits of Topi City Police Station in Tehsil Topi, district police officer (DPO) said.

Police had received information about the presence of the men in the Kotha village area, where they intended to carry out sabotage and create chaos, DPO Ziauddin said.

To avoid any loss of life, the police party immediately assembled and reached the spot, and the suspects opened fire when they saw the officers, he said. Police recovered one hand grenade, two pistols and a 125cc motorcycle from their possession.

The slain men were identified as Yasir, son of Sher Aman, and Saud ur Rehman, son of Bakht Sultan, residents of Pabini. They were active members of Fitna al-Khawarij, authorities said.

District police spokesman, Liaqat Khan said the men were involved in a hand grenade attack on the Kalabat police post that left Constable Noor Kamal Shah seriously injured. —Muqaddam Khan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